

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for maintaining policy compliance on a computer network, comprising the steps of:
  - electronically monitoring network user compliance with a network security policy stored in a database;
  - electronically evaluating network security policy compliance based on the network user compliance; and
  - electronically undertaking a network policy compliance action in response to the network security policy compliance.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the evaluating step comprises the steps of:
  - electronically generating a network security policy compliance value based on monitoring network user compliance for a plurality of network users;
  - electronically comparing the compliance value to a target compliance value, wherein the target compliance value defines a baseline for network security policy compliance; and
  - wherein the undertaking step is based on a difference between the compliance value and the target compliance value.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the compliance action is selected from a group comprising:
  - electronically implementing a different network security policy selected from network security policies stored in the database;
  - generating policy effectiveness reports; and
  - providing a retraining module to network users.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of electronically undertaking a user compliance action in response to monitoring network user compliance.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the evaluating step comprises the steps of:

generating a network security policy compliance value based on monitoring network user compliance; and

comparing the compliance value to a target compliance value, wherein the target compliance value defines a baseline for network security policy compliance; and

wherein the undertaking step is based on a difference between the compliance value and the target compliance value.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the user compliance action is selected from a group comprising:

notifying a network user;

notifying a policy administrator;

providing a retraining module to the network user; and

restricting the network user's network access rights.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein each network security policy has a security level identifier identifying the relative restrictiveness of the policy, wherein the implementing step includes the step of electronically selecting a network security policy based on the security level identifier.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of interactively generating a network security policy, the generating step comprising the steps of:
  - electronically providing a suggested network security policy to a plurality of network users;
  - electronically receiving a modified network security policy from at least one of the network users;
  - electronically providing at least one of the modified policies to the network users; and
  - receiving a group modified policy from the network users.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the monitoring step further comprises the steps of:
  - electronically providing a network policy exam to a network user;
  - electronically receiving exam answers from the network user;
  - electronically evaluating the exam results to generate an evaluation score;
  - notifying the network user of the evaluation score; and
  - storing the evaluation score in a database.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the network security policy comprises:
  - a network hardware policy;
  - an email policy;
  - an internet policy;
  - a software license policy;
  - a document management system policy; and
  - a network security enforcement policy.

11. An apparatus for maintaining policy compliance on a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

    a computer system comprising at least one processor and at least one memory, the computer system being adapted and arranged for:

- (a) electronically monitoring network user compliance with a network security policy stored in a database;
- (b) electronically evaluating network security policy compliance based on the network user compliance; and
- (c) electronically undertaking a network policy compliance action in response to the network security policy compliance.

12. An article of manufacture for maintaining policy compliance on a computer network, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied therein that causes the computer network to perform the steps of:

    electronically monitoring network user compliance with a network security policy stored in a database;

    electronically evaluating network security policy compliance based on the network user compliance; and

    electronically undertaking a network policy compliance action in response to the network security policy compliance.